

Andrew Falk
State Representative

District 20A
Big Stone, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln,
Swift and Yellow Medicine Counties



Minnesota House of Representatives

July 25, 2011

COMMITTEES: VICE-CHAIR, ENERGY FINANCE AND POLICY DIVISION
ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND OVERSIGHT
GAME, FISH AND FORESTRY DIVISION
AGRICULTURE, RURAL ECONOMIES AND VETERANS AFFAIRS FINANCE DIVISION

Ms. Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Comment Deadlines Established Regarding the LightSquared Technical Working Group
Report, IB Docket No. 11-109

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to ask the Commission's help to bring reliable broadband Internet and cell phone coverage to rural communities.

I represent a large rural district in southwestern Minnesota that borders South Dakota. I represent all or parts of Big Stone, Swift, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln and Yellow Medicine Counties. There are no urban areas in my district – just many small towns and farms. I cannot drive across my district and maintain cell phone coverage. There is also no consistent access to wireless broadband Internet, which means that high-tech companies that rely on Internet service are prevented from locating in my district.

I understand that the Commission is currently reviewing an application by LightSquared to turn on a nationwide satellite network that will address this lack of access. This is good news, since the small rural communities I represent are lagging behind urban centers in technology jobs and good cell coverage.

We cannot afford to lose the value LightSquared is offering our economy and society. I encourage the Commission to move without delay to support this and other proposals that will provide opportunity to rural communities.

Sincerely,

Andrew Falk

